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Vol 5
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THE
CHELTENHAM GUIDE:

OR,
USEFUL COMPANION,

IN A
JOURNEY OF HEALTH AND PLEASURE

TO THE
CHELTENHAM SPA.

BEING AN ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF

THE TOWN:

ITS ANTIQUITY, SI-
TUATION, AIR AND
PRODUCE.

THE CHURCH, HOSPI-
TAL, AND
SCHOOLS.

THE SPA:

ITS VIRTUES AND EF-
FECTS.

PUBLIC WALKS, AND
ROOMS.

THE ENVIRONS, RIDES,
VIEWS,

A N D

INTENDED IMPROVEMENTS

IN AND ABOUT THE TOWN.

To which is subjoined an ACCOUNT of the VEHICLES of
CONVEYANCE to and from CHELTENHAM, General
and Cross-post Days, &c. &c.

By W. Butler

L O N D O N

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[Price Eighteen Pence.]

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O H E A L T H!

BEST COMPANION OF TEMPERANCE AND VIRTUE:

MOST VENERABLE OF THE POWERS OF HEAVEN!

WITH THEE MAY THE REMNANT OF MY LIFE BE PASSED;

NOR DO THOU REFUSE TO BLESS ME WITH THY RESIDENCE:

FOR IN THY PRESENCE,

THOU PARENT OF HAPPINESS!

EVERY JOY BUDS FORTH AND FLOURISHES:

IN THY PRESENCE

BLOOMS THE FAIR SPRING OF

P L E A S U R E;

AND WITHOUT THEE NO MAN IS HAPPY.

[v]

TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE
EARL OF FAUCONBERG.

MY LORD,

OF the various scenes of pleasure and amusement which abound in England, many have been accurately described and extolled by different writers; either charmed with their peculiar beauties, or excited to the task by flattering hopes of gain. To the liberal mind, it will ever afford a singular satisfaction to communicate freely to others the enjoyment it has received: with spirits of a subordinate class, private emolument will sometimes take the lead, and has often proved the powerful motive for pointing out to public notice such objects, as, if much re-

sorted to, might tend to individual advantage. Betwixt these alternatives there is a comprehensive and happy medium of inducement to an undertaking like the present, in which the Narrator has literally no interest to seek, save the benefit of others; nor does a distant idea of pecuniary advantage stimulate his pen: But, being fully convinced that the scenes which he would open to the attention of strangers, are equally productive of pleasure and profit to those who visit them; having himself experienced both these comforts in a late trip to CHELTENHAM and the parts adjacent; and finding his health again firm, and his spirits restored, gratitude and common benevolence excite him to hang up the *votive tablet*. Such motives, he is well assured, your Lordship will not disapprove, as being too nearly congenial with those, which have long rendered the town of CHELTENHAM happy in your Lordship's repeated visits to its salutary spring. He neither needs, my Lord, nor aims at any other

other gratification from it, than the consciousness of a kind intention to inform, to please, and to benefit his readers. Amongst whom, in a peculiar manner, he respectfully begs leave to dedicate this little treatise to your Lordship; sincerely wishing it may obtain the approbation of all, whose cases and constitution render them proper candidates for the blessings of the CHELTENHAM SPA.

He has the honour to be,

with great esteem,

my LORD,

your LORDSHIP's most obedient

humble Servant,

* * * *

July, 1780.

INTRODUCTION.

ALTHOUGH the salutary virtues of the CHELTENHAM SPRING have long been experienced by the sickly, and investigated by the sagacious in the medical art; yet, as no circumstantial account of them has ever appeared, excepting here and there in detached passages of larger works, not easily referred to; their merits have not been so announced to the community, as to procure them any adequate tribute of public fame.

OF late, indeed, they have obtained a degree of sanction and celebrity, more suitable to their real importance, under the care and immediate eye of some gentlemen now in the Town; for whom the writer has too great a regard, to wound their modesty, by labouring at any com-

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mendation.

mendation. Their own works, like those of their predecessors on the same line, will praise them in future times, far beyond the humble scope of his words to express: and they have their reward, he is persuaded, in viewing the fair progress of improvement extended, and public utility daily increasing by means of their humane and spirited endeavours.

BUT, as efforts of this philanthropic nature, for the most part, make their way but slowly, and by almost imperceptible advances to the general notice, without collateral aids; hence something of the kind here attempted seemed requisite to facilitate the good design.

AND, if the intelligence resulting from the CHELTENHAM GUIDE shall be fortunate enough to promote that design, by opening a new sphere of enjoyment to the alert and healthy; another asylum for the comfort of the sick and sorrowful; and thereby establish the honour of those excellent waters, which are so happily calculated

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lated by Divine Providence to secure a general esteem, the writer will not deem the few days of leisure lost, which were spent in the present composition.

He thinks it, however, previously necessary to acquaint the reader, that he has constantly, without scruple, availed himself of such lights as were nearest at hand, in the remarks of others, who have heretofore visited the Town and neighbourhood. The judicious and candid will neither envy nor censure him for the humble labour of such a plagiarism,—if it may be so called; and all other readers, of what class soever, are hereby inhibited, as consecrated ground, the Arcadian haunts of CHELTENHAM.

INTRODUCTION

lated by Divine Providence to secure a general effect: the writer will not deem the few days of leisure lost, which were spent in the present composition.

He thinks it, however, provisionally necessary to address the reader, that he may constantly, without being troubled, be reminded of such things as were nearest at hand, in the remarks of others, who have hitherto written the I own and neighbourhood. The intention and conduct of the writer is not to commend him for the liberal, liberal, or such a proposition, if it may be so called, and all other subjects of a general nature, are hereby withheld, as being unconnected with the present subject.

THE
CHELTENHAM GUIDE.

SECTION I.

CHELTENHAM, ITS ANTIQUITY,

THE ancient Town of CHELTENHAM in Gloucestershire derives its name from the brook or little river *Chelt*, which, rising in the adjacent parish of Dowdeswell, runs near this Town on the south side, and discharges itself into the Severn at Wainload's Bridge. It lies in the Hundred of the same name, within ten miles north-east from the city of Gloucester, fifteen north of Cirencester, nine south of Tewksbury, and about a hundred miles almost due west from London; from all which places there are turnpike roads leading to this Town. The parish is said to have consisted formerly of divers manors, which may all have borne the general appellation of "The MANOR OF CHELTENHAM;" since from ancient records it appears, that several proprietors have been possessed of it nearly at the same time.

DOOMSDAY

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DOOMSDAY BOOK informs us, that in the reign of King Edward, surnamed the Confessor, who lived in the tenth century, CHELTENHAM paid him an annual rent of nine pounds five shillings, and *three thousand loaves for the King's dogs*; and that in William the Conqueror's time it paid him twenty pounds yearly, together with twenty cows, twenty hogs, and sixteen shillings in lieu of bread for his dogs.

IN the first year of King John, Henry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, was owner of the Town, and exchanged it with the King for other lands. It was granted by Henry III. to William Longsword, Earl of Salisbury; who, in the seventh year of that King's reign leased the benefit of the markets, fairs, and Hundreds of CHELTENHAM to the inhabitants of the Town; and the lease, at a certain reserved rent, was renewed three years after. Longsword was succeeded by his son William, who, in consequence of his going out of the land without the King's leave, had his estates confiscated; and the Manor of CHELTENHAM was granted in dower to Queen Eleanor, daughter of the Earl of Provence in France. In the thirty-first year of Henry III, the Bishop of Hereford appears to have been
seised

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seised of CHELTENHAM, which afterwards came into the possession of the abbey of Feschamp in Normandy, by purchase and exchange of lands at Winchelsea and Rye in Suffex. At length, it was transferred to the priory of Montburg, which was an alien monastery in Normandy. But the lands of all alien priories being afterwards vested by act of parliament in the crown of England, the Manor and the Hundred of CHELTENHAM were granted to the nunnery of Sion in Middlesex. Maud, the abbess of the nunnery, levied a fine of them to confirm her title in the twenty-second year of Henry VI. and received a fuller confirmation of it in the first year of Edward IV.

SIR MAURICE BERKELEY, of Beverston, in this county, held the manor, &c. in the fourteenth of Edward IV. which is supposed to have been under a lease from the abbesses of Sion; and by the dissolution of that nunnery, in the general sweep made by Henry VIII. the Manor of CHELTENHAM came to the crown, and so continued till the year 1608, when it was granted to the ancient family of the Duttons of Sherborn in this county. James-Lenox Dutton, Esq. is the present Lord of the Manor, and enjoys
great

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great privileges and jurisdictions in consequence of his right. Mr. Dutton has an elegant seat, visible from the road a few miles to the right, leading from Burford to CHELTENHAM.

SECTION II.

SITUATION, AIR, AND PRODUCE OF THE COUNTRY.

FEW towns in England can with propriety be said to excel this in point of situation. Fame, indeed, like fate, generally loves a lofty mark; but CHELTENHAM is seated within the bosom of a valley. That valley, however, is part of the extensive *Vale of Evesham*, or *Esam*, as it is usually pronounced, whose beauty and fertility every eye hath viewed with a peculiar admiration, and British geographers celebrate with the highest applause *. The district, by

* The ancient inhabitants of the county of Gloucester, in common with those of Oxfordshire, were by the Romans called Dobuni: a name generally supposed to have been derived from the British word *dussen*, which signifies *low* and *deep*; and alludes to the situation of these counties, which consist chiefly of plains and vallies. Some, however, with more seeming probability, are of opinion that it was latinised from *dosu*, another term, expressive of the *richness of the soil*.

See *England Displayed*, vol. II. p. 21:

way of distinction, has also by some writers been termed "Gloucester Vale," from its vicinity to that city. It affords such an abundance of the best corn, as well as of pasture for sheep and large cattle, as to be justly reckoned the granary of the adjoining counties. CHELTENHAM is placed at the south-western extremity of this delightful scene, and is almost on every side surrounded with the gently-rising verdant hills of *Cleeve*, *Prestbury*, and *Lechampton*; which, joining the more distant *Cotswolds*, and forming a kind of semicircle or amphitheatre, seem as it were emulous to monopolize her as their own; and defend her from those chilling blasts, which would otherwise proceed from the eastern quarter.

FROM the neighbourhood particularly of Frogmill, on the Oxford road hither, to Crickly-hill, which leads into the vale of Gloucester, the beauty of landscape is truly great and engaging. About six miles from the former place, from the top of a rising ground, is seen to the right a most prodigious prospect over the wide-spread valley, bounded by the

C

heights

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heights of CHELTENHAM, which often seem to tower amidst the clouds.

HERE uplands sloping deck the mountain's side;
Woods over woods, in gay theatric pride:
While oft some temple's sacred top between,
With venerable grandeur marks the scene.

THE inclosures, beautifully disposed, and formed of tall trees and hedges, appear in a spacious bottom before you; clad in summer with the richest variegated verdure, and very distinctly strike the admiring view. The whole country around is indeed full of picturesque scenes; but the romantic spots from Crickly-hill hither, and the other abovementioned, are singularly fine; and compose a complete piece of elegant nature, well worthy the attention of a traveller.

THE air and atmosphere of Gloucestershire in general are said to be equally salubrious, though different in nature according to the variety of the country. *Cotswould*, for instance, being very lofty, the air thereabout is sharp and chill; but in the vale, particularly in the neighbourhood

neighbourhood of CHELTENHAM, it is soft and mild ; and even in the wintry season not ungenial to its long-liv'd inhabitants *. Such indeed is the striking difference in this respect, that of *Cotswold* it has been commonly observed " That eight months of the year are " winter, and the other four too cold for " summer; whereas in the vale, eight months " are summer, and the remaining four too " warm for an English winter." Nor will this appear so extraordinary to any one, who considers the situation of the valley ; bounded with rising grounds, encumbered with no swamps or marshy soil, and having few streams of water, and those small, running through it †.

THE

* If the best proof of the healthfulness of the air of any place is to be deduced from the *customary longevity* of the people, many very old persons are daily to be seen in CHELTENHAM, and parts adjacent ; and even the silent repositories of their ancestors are vocal, to record the great age of many of the town and neighbourhood. See the church-yard inscriptions.

† The effects produced by the humidity or dryness of the air upon the human body, as being more obvious, are generally more attended to by persons of infirm habits, than those which arise from a greater or less degree of gravity. The quantity of vapour raised in any place depends principally upon

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THE celebrated Dr. Short, in his very ingenious and elaborate treatise on the principal mineral waters of Cumberland, &c. remarks of CHELTENHAM, that, "This market town, lying only two miles from the lovely Wolds of Oxfordshire,—those high and charming hills, richly clothed with much sweet grafs, herds and flocks,—hath a dry, thin, pure, healthy air, fitted for pleasure and diversions all the summer:" and after having expatiated on the medicinal qualities of the CHELTENHAM Spring, he adds, in very emphatical terms, "What a noble, rich, nitrous water, with a fine, healthy, clear air, and dry situation can do, for the recovery or preservation of health, may be expected here *."

As the parish of CHELTENHAM is large, so the soil is various. On the eastern part, is a the superficial extent of water in that place, or in its neighbourhood. That the air must be greatly charged with vapour in a country where there is a large expanse of water, is a fact founded on experiment; and sufficiently accounts for the infalubrity of those places where it prevails.

* See his Natural History of Mineral Waters, 4to, p. 77, 80; from which many particulars in the following narrative are deduced, of the *medical* sort chiefly.

very

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very loose whitish sand; westward a strong clay; to the south a fine rich loam; and in other parts a mixture of loam and sand.

THE country hereabout produces wood in great plenty for timber, fuel, and other uses, and abounds with grain, pulse, vegetables of all kinds, cattle, poultry and game. The inhabitants have also excellent butter and bacon, and cyder is the common beverage of the country. Their mutton is remarkably good, flavoured, short, and juicy; and well it may, from the pasturage on which the sheep are fed: for the grass is not only of a fine texture and sweet taste, but interspersed on the summits of the hills with wild thyme, and various other aromatic plants, like those on Suffex-downs, or the Welch mountains. The rivers of Gloucestershire are justly celebrated for their vast quantities of fish of various kinds; and the Severn especially feasts the country with some of the finest salmon, lampreys and conger-eels in the whole world.

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SECTION III.

THE CHURCH, AND MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church of CHELTENHAM, a handsome building, is in the deanry of Winchcombe, and an impropriation, which formerly, as we observed, belonged to the nunnery of Sion; but it is now the property of the Earl of Essex, in lease to Mr. Aston. The rectory is valued at 200l. but generally supposed to be worth 600l. It is built in the form of a cross, stands due N. E. and S. W. and has a high and elegant octagonal spire rising in the middle, which adds greatly to the beauty of prospect from many parts of the surrounding hills. It is noted for a musical good ring of eight bells, and a tuneable set of chimes, which play every three hours. There is an aisle on each side, and four galleries nearly surround it. That on the western end, as appears from a carving in front, was erected by Mrs. Anne Norwood, in the year 1628, and the other three

three by subscription of the inhabitants. There was formerly a chantry in this church dedicated to the Virgin Mary, of which Thomas Ball was the last incumbent; but it is now obsolete.

It is a circumstance rather remarkable, that although the value of the stipend is not more than 40*l.* per annum, the officiating minister holds it under a very peculiar tenure. He must be nominated by Jesus College in Oxford, and be a fellow of the same: two other fellows with him are recommended at the same time to the heir of Sir Baptist Hicks, ancestor of the present Earl of Gainsborough, who chooses one, and presents him to the bishop. The college, it seems, derive their title from the gentleman above named; and by agreement between them, the incumbent cannot hold his appointment longer than six years, unless re-elected with the like circumstances; which generally, if not always, has been the case. A similar mode, as to term, prevails also in the adjacent parish of Charlton Kings, about a mile distant.

THE

THE present very worthy incumbent of CHELTENHAM is the Reverend Hugh Hughes, deservedly esteemed both by the inhabitants his parishoners, and the nobility and gentry visiting the place; the latter of whom, much to their honour, convince him of their regard in making him a more suitable provision than the narrow income of the cure allows, by a subscription for daily prayers during the season. A lecture sermon on Sunday afternoon is supported by the inhabitants. Here is no parsonage-house; which is the case of some other parishes in the neighbourhood.

IN the chancel, over the communion table to the left, is the following inscription; which is here inserted, not only for its pious peculiarities, but as otherwise it may be lost, when some intended alterations are made in this part of the church; which really needs them no less than the pews in general.

“ THE sad Memoriall of JOHN ENGLISH, Dr.
 “ in Divinitie, To JANE his most deare Wife,
 “ daughter to the Honourable Elizabeth Lady
 “ Sandys, Baronesse *de laVine*, Comit. Southton;
 “ from

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“ from whom hee was divorced by 18 weeks
 “ close imprisonment, which soone after cav-
 “ sed her death, on Aug. 8. 1643. And to
 “ MARIE his 2d. daughter, who deceased Oc-
 “ tober 25, following,

Deare Soules, and blest: you both delivered be,
 Having exchange'd your prisons before mee:
 Whilst I survive to grieve, and find it true,
 That for my selfe I weepe, more than for you.
 Nor can tears quench my zeale: like funerall fire,
 That flames for her I lov'd till I expire.

Sic cecinit lugens, et dissolvi cupiens,

Pius conjux, ac moestus parens;

I. E.

Qui mundo suspirans & coelum aspirans,

Indefinenter clamat,

Bone Jesu, esto meus Jesus!

Sis meus, O Jesu! sis Jesus (Christe) meorum!

Sweet Saviour of Mankind,

The Saviour bee of mee and mine!

Sic { *Spirans oravit,*
Expirans exoravit,
Respirans perorabit,

JOHNS. ENGLISH. S { *acri erbi*
anctæ Veritatis Studiosus.
empiternæ itæ

AMEN!

Obiit Anno Christi * * * * .”

D

FRONTING

FRONTING the entrance of the chancel door is affixed to the wall a handsome marble cœnograph, with this inscription :

“ IN Memory of BAPTIST SMART, M. D. late of this place ; who after a long and painful illness, departed this life at the Hot-wells, Bristol, December 20th, 1772, in the 63d year of his age ; and lies interred at Clifton.”

At the bottom are his arms, *argent*, a chevron between three pheons' heads, *sable* ; on an escutcheon of pretense, quarterly, *ermine* and *azure* ; a cross *or*.

CLOSE beside this is another of the like form, and equally elegant ; erected for Mr. HENRY STURMY, who died Oct. 24, 1772 ; aged 51 years. And beneath are his arms emblazoned, 3 demi-lions *gules*, on a field *or*.

UPON a flat stone below, there is a memorial round the edge, on brass, now almost totally effaced, which we find is for William Grevil, one of the judges of the court of common pleas, who died in the 4th year of Henry VII, Anno Domini 1512. Together with other inscriptions

scriptions about the place, for the Grevil family, who were formerly the possessors of Arle-Court,—situate in one of the hamlets belonging to CHELTENHAM parish,—by the marriage of Robert, brother to Judge Grevil, with the daughter and coheirefs of John Arles.

OVER the chancel door, upon a very neat table monument of white marble, is inscribed a melancholy catastrophe of recent date, which befel the lady during her intended stay for the season in this town. The wretch was one of her own domestics.

“ To the Memory of KATHERINE,
The Wife of WILLIAM, P. A. A'COURT,
of Heytesbury in the county of Wilts, Esq.
Who departed this life on the 23d day of Sept.
1776.

In the 32d year of her age.

The strictest honour and virtue,
Elegance of manners,
Integrity of heart,
And delicacy of sentiment,
Endeared her to a select circle of friends
and acquaintance.

She

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She was cherished, as an only child,
 By an indulgent father ;
 Beloved, from infancy, by a tender husband ;
 In whose arms she died, an unnatural death,
 Effected by poison,
 Administered by the hands of
 A cruelly-wicked livery servant :
 Whose resentment, at being detected in theft,
 Prompted him to perpetrate
 This horrid and execrable crime."

Jas. Wyatt inv.

R. Westmacott sculp.

IN the chapel, at the east end of the north
 aisle, is a very singular window, with a tracery
 of various compartments, disposed circularly
 in the manner of a flower ; and thence,—like
 that in York cathedral of a similar form,—usu-
 ally denominated *The marigold window*.

NEAR to the above, on a table monument
 of freestone, is the following :

" Hic juxta sita est

CATHARINA

FLEETWOODI DORMER Equitis Aurati Sponsa

JOHANNIS LYGON de Arle-Court Armigeri,

EX ELIZABETHA uxore filia,

Utriusque

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Utriusque parentis hæres unica ;
Cujus familia in agro *Wigornienfi*
Per trecentos et amplius annos
Floruit, et adhuc feliciter floret :
A tanto licet genere oriunda, nobiliq; nupta,
Stirpem tamen, et conjugem,
Utrosque antea illustres,
Morum sanctitate illustriores reddidit ;
Maritum, si non patrem, hæredem scripsit ;
Hæc, illum, moriens amplo patrimonio,
Ille, hanc amissam, hoc monumento decoravit.

Decessit, Feb. 3.

Anno { Ætatis 72.
 { Domini 1678.

JOHANNIS LYGON supradictus obiit 1644.
filius unicus RICARDI LYGON de *Maddersfield*,
Arm. ex secundis nuptiis cum MARGARETA
filia JOH. TALBOT militis, ex stirpe Comitum
Salopiæ: Affinis etiam fuit Baronibus de *Berke-*
ley-Castro, aliisq; proceribus, et per uxores suas
heredibus quorum insignia supernè depingun-
tur."

THE arms here alluded to are in fifteen
quarterings, of the families of Lygon, Bracey,
Maddersfield,

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Maddersfield, Harefleet, Decors, Giffard, Beauchamp, Abtot, Uffleet, Furnival, Luftot, Verdon, Grevil, Arle, and Southiey, emblazoned on an escutcheon.

THERE is likewise an inscription in the south aisle, for CHRISTOPHER BAILEY, M. A. who, after having been 32 years master of the CHELTENHAM free school, died in 1654. A table of benefactions to the parish is also affixed to the top of the north side of the aisle.

SECTION IV.

THE TOWN, HOSPITAL, PUBLIC CHARITIES, AND SCHOOLS.

CHELTENHAM is laid out in the easy form of an S, running from S. S. E. to N. N. W. and consists principally of one regular, spacious and handsome street, about a mile in length. Thus disposed, it conveys to the eye an idea of greater extent, and has a much more pleasing effect than the strait appearance of a thoroughfare. The houses here are chiefly of brick, though plenty of good stone

stone might be had from the quarries near at hand. At present the street is greatly encumbered with certain old coarse buildings supported on stone pillars: these are called the *Corn Market*, *Butter Cross*, and another below them neither has nor merits a name*. A little farther down, is a kind of cage or prison, built of stone, and not unsuitably decorated with the inscription in front, "Do well, and fear not." It is hoped that objects so very unsightly will soon be removed, and the necessary accommodations for marketting, &c. placed on some more retired and convenient spot.

Just below these, on the south side of the street, a narrow avenue leads on to the churchyard, which is rendered singularly agreeable by double rows of shady limes, that surround and cross through it. At the end of one of these walks, arched over by an almost impenetrable shade, is erected a small alcove with a seat; over which, in the front, some well-meaning son of Apelles hath depicted a female form, reclined against a pillar, and contem-

* An old uninhabited house belonging to a Mr. Hayward.

plating

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plating a skull. His idea, however rudely executed, may suggest something better to a more able hand, and has at least the credit of being deduced from that excellent and well-known picture of "the Magdalen of the Rock." In due respect therefore to the modern artist of CHELTENHAM, it must be confessed with the poet, *magnis tamen excidit ausis*: he did his best upon a great subject.

ON the road side leading from the turnpike into the town, is a neat old dwelling, with convenient offices and grounds, newly fitted up by Richard Cox, Esq. for his occasional summer residence, and called the *Cottage* from its humble style. The inns of CHELTENHAM are the Plough, the Swan, the George, and the Fleece.

CHELTENHAM is a market town: the market is held weekly on Thursday. Its annual fairs are five; namely, on the second Thursday in April; holy Thursday; the second Thursday in September; and third Thursday in December, for *cattle of all sorts*: and on the 5th of August (St. James's day old style) for
lambs

lambs only, which are then brought hither in great abundance. At the September fair, a statute also is held for the hiring of men and women servants; and at the other four are sold pedlary and other wares, toys, &c.

A CONSIDERABLE trade is here carried on for malt made in the town, but it is said not to be of so extensive a nature as formerly. The only manufacture pursued at present in CHELTENHAM is in white cotton stockings, which for fineness, texture and value, may vie with those of most towns: great quantities of them have of late years been sold in the neighbourhood, or exported to London and elsewhere; and are much esteemed. The women and children of the poorer sort comb and spin woollen yarn for the clothiers about Stroud, in this county; near which town, upon the hills of Cotswould, the fleeces are superlatively good: and it is recorded, that the celebrated breed of sheep which produces the fine Spanish wool, was originally raised from some of the Cotswould sheep, sent as a present to the King of Spain by one of our good-natured Sovereigns.

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THERE is also in the town of CHELTENHAM an *Hospital*, and a *Free-school*, founded in the year 1574, by Richard Pates, Esq. of Gloucester. The former is for the reception of six poor persons, three men, and three women; to each of whom a stipend is allowed of twelve-pence weekly, and fourpence quarterly; together with sixteen shillings yearly, laid out in a coat for each of the men, and a gown for each woman. They have moreover twopence each weekly from another donor.

THE *Free-school*, a good decent stone building, is endowed with 16 l. a-year for the master; a house for his residence, and 4 l. a-year for the usher. The present master is the Rev. Mr. Fowler. The lands assigned by Mr. Pates for the support of these pious foundations were vested in Corpus Christi College, Oxford; and were long since said to be worth 60 l. per ann. to which the College, as governors, have added 5 l. per ann. and they nominate the master and usher of the school, whom the bishop of the diocese approves.

AN *Exhibitioner* goes from hence to Pembroke college, for *eight years*; with *ten pounds* per ann. given by the will of George Townshend of Lincoln's-Inn, Middlesex, Esq. A. D. 1683; and some small tenements in CHELTENHAM are likewise allotted to the maintenance of the charity.

THE above Mr. Townshend hath founded here another school, and endowed it with 4 l. a-year to the master, for *teaching the children to read*; besides, leaving 5 l. a-year, for *apprenticing out lads* in this parish.

Mr. JOHN WALLWYN of the adjacent parish of Swindon, by his will in 1627, gave fifty shillings yearly for ever to the poor of CHELTENHAM, charged on his manor of Swindon.

IN 1667, diverse charities assigned for the benefit of the poor, and for putting out apprentices, were consolidated and laid out in the purchase of lands, called "The poor's grounds," at that time worth eight pounds five shillings a-year; but they are now let at the improved rent of eighteen pounds per ann. and applied

to the charitable purposes of the respective donors.

AND, in the year 1704, the Rev. William Stanby, Vicar of Badgworth, left an estate there, which lets at 14 l. a-year, for *apprenticing boys*: of which sum that parish is to have 5 l. Churchdown 3 l. and CHELTENHAM the overplus yearly.

HERE is a boarding-school for young ladies, kept by Mrs. Ansel; and another for young gentlemen, under the care of Mr. Wells, who also takes day-scholars: so that parents who bring down or send their children hither for the benefit of the Spa, may avoid losing time in their education. At the bottom of the town are a quakers and an anabaptist meeting.

ACCORDING to an account published in the year 1712, there were 321 houses in this parish, and about 1500 inhabitants: the numbers are since much increased, and now estimated at about 400 houses, and 2000 inhabitants. Here is at present a great want of convenient *Lodging Houses*, to accommodate the company

pany suitable to their rank and usual mode of living ; nor is it doubted, but that a becoming spirit for this purpose, which is now beginning to exert itself, will soon remove this principal and daily-increasing defect. Such indeed of the town's people as let their apartments, are mutually emulous to fit them up in the neatest manner for the reception of strangers ; but many do not let lodgings,—induced solely to reside at CHELTENHAM from the pleasantness of its situation ; and several of the more ancient houses are too small for the purpose, and never were intended for it.

PROPOSALS have lately been drawn up, and subscriptions set on foot by Mr. Miller, the present worthy Renter of the SPA ; a gentleman, whose purse, as well as time, and every attention, are liberally devoted to the completion of a set of New Buildings, somewhere near the Public Walks. Several other gentlemen have joined in the plan, which must certainly prove of essential advantage to invalids *, and

* The ingenious Mr. Guthrie observes, that one part (and that certainly no small one) of the salutary virtues ascribed to the

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and can no less tend to the emolument of the inhabitants :

Fortunatos nimium, sua si bona nôrint !

SECTION V.

PUBLIC WALKS, AND ROOMS.

THE church-yard, before noticed, falls very properly under this head, and extends from east to west above three hundred feet. On quitting it at the south-west gate, a passage is opened towards the CHELTENHAM SPA; to which you are conducted first through

the mineral waters of Germany, is owing to the exercises and amusements of the patients resorting to them. It is the interest, says he, of the proprietors to provide for both : and many of the German princes feel the benefit of the various elegant and polite institutions for the diversion of the public. The neatness and conveniency of the above places of public resort are inconceivable : and though at first they were attended with expence, yet they more than paid themselves in a few years, by the company which crowds to them from all parts of the world; many of whom do not repair thither for health, but for amusement and conversation.

Present State, p. 419.

a well-

a well-constructed serpentine gravel walk, 106 yards long, and ten feet wide, planted on either hand with a neat quickset. To the right of this walk, within "The Grove," a pretty inclosure shaded with lofty trees, is a large stately mansion of modern structure, called by way of distinction *The great House*; the chief part of which is generally let out in commodious lodgings for the company. Its vicinity to the Long Room and Well renders it a very convenient resort for cards, dancing, tea-drinking and other parties, who meet here every evening in the week during the season, Mondays excepted, and make a subscription for Mrs. Field, the present possessor.

You next enter a pleasant field, called CHURCH MEAD;

—"The silent mead,
Where the murmuring rivulet flows;
Where the elm extends her shade,
And each rising beauty blows."

THROUGH this a gravel walk, six feet wide and above 270 feet in length, leads to the river *Chelt*; who winds his humble current round

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round the bottom of the Well-walks and other grounds adjacent, and in his course turns several overshot mills for the grinding of corn. A slight draw-bridge is thrown over the stream, and introduces to the public parade, whose beauty must strike the most common observer; extending in a straight line by a gentle ascent to the famous SPRING, the nature and excellency of whose waters merit a distinct consideration.

THIS, which I would call The LOWER GRAND PARADE, is 200 yards long, and about 20 feet wide: it has an orchard both on the right and left, and is skirted on each side with a quickset, and a grass border three yards wide; along which is a beautifully uniform plantation of tall straight elms, placed at equal distances of about 12 feet from each other, and diffusing a most delightful shade in the hottest weather.

ABOVE the Spring is a similar walk, planted on either hand with high flowering limes, of singular verdure and fragrance in the summer months. This UPPER PARADE is 104 yards in length ;

length; and beyond it, within a neat fence, is another part laid down in grass, and lately planted on each side with young elms; around which is thrown a serpentine walk and quickset, giving the scene an agreeable variety; and at the farther end it is proposed to form a garden, with an alcove in centre, to terminate the view.

THE two Parades above the *Chelt*, and on each side the Well, are composed of a binding marle, intermixed with fine gravel; and bear a surface of so firm a texture, that for the last fifteen years, I am informed it hath received no other trimming than the numerous footsteps of the company; who really enjoy here a mall, which, in proportion to its extent, may vie with the most celebrated of its kind throughout the kingdom*.

FROM

【* The whole length of the several walks, from the Church-yard inclusive, to the Close at the end of the Upper Parade, is more than 900 yards: a sufficient demonstration that the Writer means not to exaggerate its beauty. The following is an exact admeasurement taken by a surveyor.

F

Walk

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FROM this avenue the most pleasing effect in perspective is displayed, by the incidental position of the Church Spire. Elegant in itself, and standing in a direct line with the Parades and Well, it is seen to peculiar advantage, cutting exactly the centre of the walks, and crowning the termination of the vista. This singular coincidence naturally turns the idea of a traveller to another as striking, in the park of Earl Bathurst at Cirencester. One of the most curious, and perhaps casual, objects of those magnificent grounds, has a like effect, though on a larger scale. In the midst of the Deer

	<i>Yards.</i>
Walk through the Church-yard,	101
Serpentine walk to Church-mead gate,	106
Through the mead to the Chelt gate,	190
Thence over the brook, to the bottom of the Parades,	25
The Lower Grand Parade	200
The Spa paved Court, a square of near	11
The Upper Parade, above the Well,	104
The grass walk, at the end of the Upper Parade,	200
	<hr/>
	937

Or 2811 feet; that is, above half a mile. *Christ-church Walk* in Oxford is a quarter of a mile long; and the *Grand Terras* at Stow is 3000 feet.

Park,

Park, before the house, is placed a fine lofty column, on which is a statue of Queen Anne, larger than the life. This pillar is near a mile distant from the house. Place your back toward the pillar, and you see the beautiful tower of the parish church of Cirencester, so immediately rising in the centre of the mansion, that an observer might be easily induced to believe the tower was a part of his Lordship's house, were it not of a different colour*. I cannot omit to observe upon this head, that the spire of St. George's Church Bloomsbury, in Middlesex, placed directly behind the British Museum, presents a similar effect to the spectator from the fields leading to Pancras, in front of that noble edifice,

THE COURT in which the Well stands is a quadrangle of near eleven yards: on two sides of which are placed THE OLD and NEW ROOM.

* In the "New History of Gloucestershire," printed by Mr. Rudder, at Cirencester, in folio, A.D. 1779, is given a very neat print of this view. To the Editor of that elaborate and useful work, the Writer of the present is happy in the opportunity to acknowledge his pamphlet under great obligations,

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The former is on the right hand, about 35 feet long, and 18 feet wide, and has three windows on the side towards the meadow. It is now seldom used but upon ball-nights, for card parties, every Monday during the season; it is neatly papered and furnished, but in no other respect remarkable, save for its comparative smallness to that of the Long Room opposite; and as it exhibits a proof of the rapid increase of company to the waters of CHELTENHAM within a very few years.

ON one of the windows, some ingenious wag has inscribed with a diamond the following apostrophe:

TO THE INVALIDS.

YE heartless invalids, a race of fools,
Content to die, if by the doctor's rules;
Attend, and know, that one who labour'd long
With acrid juices, and the nerves unstrung,
Forfaking physic, by experience wise,
Drew health from temperance and from exercise.

20th July, 1752.

J. W—N.

ON another window are the following lines, evidently by the same hand; and said to be written

IN

IN A VERY WET SEASON.

CHELT'NHAM, what sin against the skies

Can merit these perpetual rains,
That ev'n to drench thee might suffice,
Were thine Arabia's thirsty plains?

Much thou wilt suffer hence, I fear,
Thy healing waters though we love;
What constitution long can bear
With these below, and those above?

This made th' intrepid PULTENEY * fly,
Which fire and smoke could never do;
Smile soon, ye skies! or by and by
Will troops of ladies follow too.

For, when the men of martial fame
So much their noble courage lose,
Well may the ladies do the same;
And what will then become of HUGHES †?

25th July, 1752.

J. W—N.

OVER the OLD ROOM is a convenient *Billiard Room*, with an excellent table for the diversion of the nobility and gentry; and be-

* General Pulteney.

† The renter of the Spring at that time; long since-retired from CHELTENHAM, and said to be now living in Wales.

yond

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yond these apartments, under the same roof, are the dwelling house and proper offices for the proprietor's servants, immediately attending to pump and distribute the water, to bottle it occasionally for exportation; and in winter to manage the preparation of the pure salts extracted from them. These are sold here by the proprietor; at all the mineral water warehouses in London; and at Mr. Parry's, apothecary, in Bath.

THE NEW LONG ROOM, on the east side of the quadrangle, is a very handsome and commodious building, and was erected by Mr. William Skillicorne, the ground landlord, and Mr. William Miller, the present lessee of the Spa, in 1775. It is about 70 feet in length, 25 feet wide, and 20 feet high; having six windows in front towards the Well, and two at each end. The principal entrance is at the north end. The centre is decorated with three rich glass chandeliers, and the room otherwise furnished in a suitable style. At the upper end is a gallery some feet from the floor, for the band of music, who perform at the ball every Monday evening: and here are public breakfasts

breakfasts every Monday during the season, when the company is generally very numerous, and joined by many of the neighbouring gentry. Great ease and harmony prevail amongst the company; and in few public places are they less encumbered with form, or more free from disagreeable restraints.

THE SPA SEASON at CHELTENHAM, is from May till October, but there is generally most company in the months of June, July, August, and part of September.

At a distance of between two and three hundred yards from the Long Room, are the remains of a *Cold-Bath*, built close beside the *Chelt*, and originally supplied from its stream, which for many years was much resorted to. It is pity that an accommodation at once so pleasant and useful, should have been left to decay. It has been proposed to repair it, which is certainly to be wished, for the benefit of the Inhabitants at large. But the Writer is of opinion, that a cold-bath erected in the Close, at the top of the Grass Walk beyond the Parades, would be far more eligible for the Company, in point
of

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of situation; as there is a fine spring of pure cool water ready to supply it, and its nearness to the Walks and Long Room must give it the preference for invalids. Indeed nothing can be more desirable, next to the increase of good Lodging-Houses, than an improvement of this salutary kind.

SECTION VI.

THE SPA;

ITS VIRTUES, AND EFFECTS.

ON an easy ascent, southward of the church, is the CHELTENHAM SPA, which to adopt the language and authority of one of the best judges on the subject *—"Justly challenges the preference of all the purging waters in England, of the nitro-calcarious mineral class." It rises out of a mixed loamy and sandy soil,—the same on which the town stands, and its environs for ten miles round. The whole scite is elevated and dry, yet singularly fertile; affording a plentiful

* Dr. Short, Nat. Hist. ut supra.

produce

^

produce of all things for the accommodation and innocent pleasures of life. Under the sandy surface lies a strong, thick, bluish clay, or marle: the plot around is an inclosure, about the centre of which a flow Spring was long since observed to ooze out, which spread itself a few yards upon the surface, and then disappeared; being either evaporated by the sun, or absorpt by the soil; yet leaving much of its salts behind.

To this spot came daily flocks of pigeons, either to feed on those salts, or to drink the liquid; of which at length one Mr. Mason in particular took notice. It had also been remarked, that in hard frosty weather, when other springs were fast bound, this alone continued in its fluid state; and upon trial it was found to be cathartic. Mr. Mason, being possessed of some land adjoining, within eight or ten yards of the Spring, dug to a considerable depth in his own ground, expecting to find the original there; but missing it, he in the year 1718, became proprietor of the field by purchase, together with the Spring. It was then circumscribed within a kind of well, and a little

G

shed

shed thrown over it ; and after some experiments made with the water by the ingenious Dr. Baird of Worcester, and Dr. Grevil of Gloucester, it was sold medicinally till the year 1721, when a very worthy and public-spirited gentleman took a lease of it, at sixty one pounds per annum.

AFTER the decease of Mr. Mafon and his son ; the Spring and premises devolved to Capt. Henry Skillicorne of this town, as proprietor in right of his wife, the daughter of Mr. Mafon ; who in the summer of 1738, not only built the OLD ROOM on the right hand for the drinkers, with several other conveniences, but secured the Spring from all extraneous matters ; erected the dome, as it now stands, over the Well ; laid out the paved court about it ; planted the elms and limes ; formed the gravel walks, and was continually doing something to improve the scene, and render it worthy of the respectable companies who avidiously resorted hither.

ABOUT this time, Dr. Short, who was then accurately investigating all the mineral waters
of

of the kingdom, visited CHELTENHAM in his course, and made various experiments on the water, which are published with much encomium in his treatise before mentioned. These first drew the attention of the public about the year 1740: since which, many other eminent physicians * have at different periods examined and recommended the subject; and thus on the most solid and clear principles established its utility and reputation.

THE DOME over the Spring, is a square brick building, formed on four arches, with columns of the same; and ornamented at the top with a dial and a globe. On the east side, under the arch, is a pump, rising in form of an obelisk. The Well is in the centre of the dome, sunk between eight and nine feet from the surface. The water, springing up to about four or five feet, is inclosed in a round basin of lead; above which to the surface is a square stone reservoir, adapted to contain all the water for thirty-six hours together, and covered

* Linden, Lucas, Ruffel, Ratty, &c.

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with a wooden curb and door, to lock and unlock occasionally.

ALL the ground beneath the surface of the Well is simply clay or marle : for though upon laying foundations, &c. great quantities of the soil about it have been dug up at several times to five and six feet deep, the workmen reached no different strata of earth, or other out-breaks of the water, which is supposed to originate from some of the surrounding hills.

NOTWITHSTANDING the spring-head opens so near the surface, the water rises up exceedingly clear *. It is of a bitterish, salt, steely taste ; and Dr. Short informs us, that immediately as it issues

* In the month of August, some of the water was exposed to the open air, and remained perfectly clear for eleven days together. Which, by the way, is a proof of the close union of its texture ; since in such a space of time a considerable part of the vehicle, water, must exhale when thus exposed. This is also an argument how little its weight is increased by carriage from the spring-head to the metropolis and elsewhere ; and hence we may fairly infer, that water thus constituted may be exported to any part of the world, and still preserve its virtues, if the vessel containing it be properly secured

it

it is fifty grains in a pint heavier than common water, and on standing a little, increases in weight twenty grains more. In his time the Spring produced thirty-five pints *in an hour*; which, in the usual course of drinking the water, is sufficient for three hundred and fifty persons.

It is commonly taken from one pint to three, in a morning; and though it purges powerfully, the operation is lenient, and effected with the greatest ease to the drinker; being never attended with griping, tenesmus, nausea, languor, or other painful consequences *. Dr. Short calls it a *very brine of nitre*, yet genial and balsamic; and he asserts it to be the

* Dr. Lucas in his *Essays on Waters*, part II. observes that the peasants of the country hereabout commit extraordinary excesses in their potation of the CHELTENHAM SPA, without feeling any sensible inconvenience. "I have seen," says he, "old men drink CHELTENHAM water by the quart, without number or rule. Upon inquiring their intention and method, they answered, that they had drank them on such and such days and holidays for upwards of thirty years. They said they had no disorders; but they reckoned it wholesome to cleanse their bodies; and they had no rule, but to drink till the water passed clean through them. Yet I have not been able to discover any ill effects from this strange practice."

only

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only one of the kind yet discovered, in all the counties whose mineral waters he had examined. "Hence," says he, "whilst other places boast of their purging waters, CHELTENHAM has just occasion, not to envy, but "to glory and triumph over them all *."

ON evaporation they have been found to contain in a gallon eight drachms of nitrous salt, with about two drachms of an impalpable alkaline earth. To their redundancy of nitre they principally owe their cathartic virtue; and that they are also compounded of a degree of light sulphur is manifest, from the fœtid dejections or sediment left behind in any vessel which has held them for some time. They likewise are strongly impregnated with a volatile steel, discoverable by their transparently blue colour when mixed with an infusion of nut-galls.

SPEAKING of their specific gravity, Dr. Short particularly mentions, That at different times he has procured seven hundred and forty-seven,

* Nat. Hist. p. 78. and his Pref. p. iii.

and

and six hundred and twenty-two, and six hundred and ninety-two grains of sediment from a gallon of the water; which gives six hundred and eighty-seven grains upon an average. He also adds concerning the CHELTENHAM SPRING some things, which he deemed too remarkable to be omitted, and which he had not observed in any other of the same class. Amongst these are,

I. Its greater exemption from gritty, coarse earth or sand. II. The quicker and easier crystallization of its salts, which have a disposition to that end beyond any other spring whatever. III. The crystals stand longest in the open air, and that in very rainy seasons, without being in the least liquefied or moistened. IV. "The salts," says he, "are not only the bitterest I have tasted, but instead of chilling the mouth and tongue, like other nitre, they warm and give a glow, somewhat like marine salts, but in a much more genial and pleasant manner *." V. CHELTENHAM

* See Nat. Hist. Pref. page xiv. the Treatise itself, p. 29. and Ruffel on Sea-Water, p. 224. for a confirmation of these remarks.

water lying all night in the body, does not disturb it, or impede rest; but goes off the next morning with great and singular facility.

VI. It most effectually and powerfully cleanses the *uropœia* from sand, sludge, and small stones, without leaving its own sediment in the blood or passages, to be the foundation of a fresh complaint.

THESE are some of those peculiar qualities of the SPA, to which many more may be added to confirm their excellence. "The waters of "CHELTENHAM," says another learned physician, "are so suitable to all, in whatever "calling or stage of life, that they may safely be "taken, from the sucking infant, to the most "decrepit and worn-down age of man, without the least hazard of detriment to any constitution whatsoever." They seldom if ever fail, not only to give a keen appetite, but an easy digestion and quiet nights. Their pure salts, quickened and regulated in their effect by a fine exhilarating, volatile, chalybeate spirit, at the same time that they expel all gross and viscid humours, add great life and cheerfulness to the whole animal œconomy.

Hence

Hence the most eminent of the faculty have recommended them for all scorbutic and bilious complaints, though of long standing; acidities in the stomach, whether from flatulency or indigestion; habitual costiveness; obstructions of the liver or spleen*; leprosy, king's evil, and the disorder called St. Anthony's fire; inflammations in the eyes, and all other inflammatory cases of whatever kind, whether proceeding from stone, gout, or gravel: under all which circumstances they are esteemed of sovereign efficacy, when accompanied, as they ever should be, with gentle exercise, and a proper regimen of diet.

SUCH are the *general* cases, in which the CHELTENHAM SPRING is calculated to administer relief and health. But although its benign stream may thus be taken at any pe-

* Over the Fountain of Pouhon, in Germany, the celebrated original Spa, whence all others derive their appellation, are engraven the following lines, expressive of its virtues; and equally applicable to the effects of the CHELTENHAM WELL, as above enumerated.

Obstructum referat, durum terit, humida fccat,
Debile fortificat, si tamen arte bibis.

H

riod,

riod, and without prejudice to almost all constitutions; yet doth it by no means follow, that it should be a *Panacea*, of universal remedy, for relief of all the varied infirmities incident to the human frame. Broad, bold assumptions of this sort serve only to prove too much; to amuse mankind; and they favour very suspiciously of empiricism. It is therefore necessary, and but just, to point out those specific distempers to which the virtues of the CHELTENHAM waters are more peculiarly adapted, and thus prevent an unbeneficial use of them: because, though they will not prove prejudicial to any, yet it is ever disagreeable, where expectations are heightened, to find that the desired end is not obtained. I shall close this head with some *more particular* observations from Dr. Short, who appears to have studied the subject with a very superior degree of attention.

He advises the use of these waters in chronic complaints of the *head*, when arising from too cold and viscid foods, as melons, mushrooms, &c. but recommends in this case bleeding and laxatives previously, in order to
attenuate

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attenuate and cool the blood *. If the head-ach is attended with a pale countenance, slow circulation, and a sluggishness both of body and mind, and in all cases of *palsy* and *apoplexy*, originating from viscid blood, he would have the drinking of the water to be constantly accompanied with daily riding, the flesh brush; and suitable diet †.

For any redundant wateriness of the eyes, or lippitude, whether from a defluxion falling upon the eye-lids, or various other causes; he declares it of excellent use to *wash* them daily at the Spring, but *not to rub* them; and quotes the case of a Mrs. Smith, who being nearly blind, regained her sight by that means, and drinking the water at the same time ‡.

For *asthma*, proceeding from a fullness of the lymphatic vessels ||; *loss of appetite*, either resulting from a foul stomach, or phlegm lodged in it and the intestines; or from mere torpor and relaxation of the stomach, wateriness of the

* Nat. Hist. p. 204.

† Ib. p. 205, 210, 212.

‡ Ib. 218.

|| Ib. 224.

Numbers of cases of the most violent scorbutic and other disorders could be cited, that have been cured by these waters.

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blood, slow circulation, and a coldness of the animal frame: a *canine, voracious appetite*, arising from a laxity of the stomach and bowels; which, having lost their retentive faculty, suffer all foods to escape them crude and undigested. *Nests of worms*, extending and crawling in the bowels, which devour the food that should nourish the body*. *Habitual costiveness*; in which case, says he, no medicines are comparable to a long course of nitrous waters drank warm, especially on going to bed †. The *cholic*, from almost any cause, whether bilious, nervous, nephritic, or hysterical; but if it proceed from indurated fæces, he recommends the water to be warmed, as in the case of costiveness ‡. Of the dropy he treats very largely, and shews in what cases this remedy is proper ||. He next recommends it in cases of *sterility* and *obstruction*, from the various causes §; in *cachexy, atrophy, or consumption*; and above all, in that peculiarly-topical, English complaint, the SCURVY, which he truly

* See particularly Short's Nat. Hist. p. 228, 237.

† Ib. p. 232.

‡ Ib. p. 235.

|| Ib. p. 238, to

240.

§ Ib. 249, 250.

calls "this Proteus-like distemper, that micks all others *."

At the close of his remarks, our very judicious and indefatigable author informs his reader, "That at the several springs which engaged his pursuit, he took particular care, by strict inquiry, to find out those *diseases* in which each spring had been found most successful; the *symptoms* attending the disease, and in what *constitutions*; as also to discover those cases and symptoms wherein the waters had either failed or done hurt; together with the patients' use of them, and of non-naturals, such as food, sleep, exercise, &c. so as thereby to afford a moral probability, if not a demonstration, that the benevolent, but especially the afflicted, part of mankind might proceed with the greater certainty and satisfaction †."

As the best close of this most principal section, it will now be necessary to lay before the reader

* Ib. p. 252, to 270. See also 202. † Ib. p. 280.

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SOME USEFUL RULES FOR DRINKING OF THE CHELTENHAM SPA.

I. WITH regard to the exact *quantity* of water to be taken, it is impossible to lay down any general rule. Some constitutions are easily affected with a small, others with a more copious draught. In every case the patient is to adopt the guidance of his own particular constitution; and never precipitately to drink more than to occasion three or four motions daily; for the operation in the bowels is generally found to be in proportion to the dose.

II. IN beginning to drink the CHELTENHAM WATER, the generally-approved custom is, to take half a pint on going to bed, and the next morning to dissolve in the like quantity about a quarter or half an ounce of the *salts* extracted from the SPA. By this means the body will be gently opened and prepared; after which the water, *taken alone*, may be increased about a quarter of a pint at each time of drinking; so as to make up the requisite morning quantity of a pint and half, a quart, or more, till the cathartic operation is effected. It will thus have time and power to display its healing
ing

ing qualities ; to search the smallest vessels ; to blend and circulate with the blood, and to correct the juices in the most grateful and salutary manner.

III. UNDER every disorder for which this water is used, it has been advised not to take so much at first as to occasion purging, but simply as a gentle alterative. When thus drunken, a quarter of a pint every fourth hour, so as to make up a pint in a day, is said to be sufficient for a tender constitution : the hale and robust may extend the dose in proportion. Thus taken, it is obvious that a longer course of drinking may be requisite ; but every thinking invalid will allow, that in cases of this sort, impatience, scanty use, and short trial cannot reasonably be expected to have the desired effect. And as this prudent regimen is the surest way of reaping benefit, so must it certainly be of much more consequence to the drinker, than the *supposed* loss of time ; when a matter of so essential a sort is concerned as the removal of a malady, and the restoration of an enfeebled frame to health, vivacity and vigour.

IV. IN

IV. In the *Scurvy*, these waters should be taken for five or six weeks together, at the Spring-head ; or, if that be inconvenient to the patient, then for eight weeks successively at a distance : and this by reason of that part of the efficacy, or *vivida vis*, which the water may have lost by carriage.

V. In *erysipelas*, and *inflammations of the eyes*, the CHELTENHAM waters may be used at all seasons of the year ; and in those distempers they should be applied plentifully, as immediate evacuations are requisite to remove them.

VI. Those invalids of a delicate constitution, who have any valuable designs to answer from these waters, should make short and easy journeys to them, in hot weather especially ; and not fatigue themselves by over-travelling. And when arrived at CHELTENHAM, they should not begin to drink the water for a day or two, till the body is cool, and undisturbed from the change of place.

LASTLY. It is necessary to observe rules in diet, exercise, &c. during the course of drinking
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ons

ing the CHELTENHAM waters; as in the use of all other medicinal applications whatsoever. This rule is equally good for the benefit of the invalid, and the credit of the water. Intemperance of every kind, militates powerfully against them both: and all luxurious indulgence, in those who profess themselves candidates for health, is but acting the scene of Penelope's web over again;

“ The night unravelling what the day renew'd.”

THE most eminent physicians recommend these waters as the best preparative for drinking the *Bath* waters.

THE reader will excuse the length of the above remarks, on an interesting subject; which, consistently with justice to the waters themselves, and to those for whose comfort they are described, the writer knew not how better to abridge from the larger performances of their learned authors.

An eminent physician, Dr. Smith of Oxford, usually resides here during the summer season.

I SECTION

SECTION VII.

THE ENVIRONS; RIDES, AND VIEWS.

AT convenient distances from the town of CHELTENHAM are many agreeable airings upon the hills, which afford extensive views of the vale below, and ample prospects of the adjacent counties, replete with rural elegance and majesty. Amongst the principal are the rides to

Charlton-Kings,	Prestbury,
Dowdeswell,	Southam,
Whittington,	Haymes,
Coberley,	Bishop's Cleeve,
Winchcombe,	Lechampton,
Sudley,	and
Postlip,	Swindon.

IN CHARLTON-KINGS, in the Hundred of CHELTENHAM, lies about a mile to the east of that town, and is so called to distinguish it from

from Charlton-Abbats, another village in the neighbourhood, and because at the Norman conquest it was part of the royal demesnes, and made a member of the great manor of CHELTENHAM. This parish consists of rich pasture and arable, and some wood land. It is watered by three brooks (of which the *Chelt* is one), that unite here, and drive several corn-mills. It is very advantageously situated under the Lechampton hills, which secure it from the easterly winds. The road hither is good, lies rather low, and is well shaded. From the Church-yard is a very pleasing view towards CHELTENHAM, whose steeple rising amidst the trees is a considerable addition to the scene. The manor of Ashley in this parish is the property of William Prinne, Esq. whose handsome house on this pleasant spot is seen from the road to CHELTENHAM. Mr. Whit-horn has also a good house and a considerable estate in Charlton. The church is a flat building, very fair, and in good condition. It has an elegant square embattled tower, with pinnacles, and six bells in it, which stands in the middle of the building. There are also

two chapels on the north and south sides of the tower, making the form of a cross.

THE following inscription, upon an oval brass plate in the chancel, merits the notice of the benevolent and well-disposed mind:

Dignum laude virum vetat justitia mori!

“SAMUEL COOPER of this parish, Gentleman,
 “died the 13th of May, 1743, who by will
 “gave to the trustees undermentioned, and
 “to their successors his trustees for ever, the
 “rents of his grounds in the same parish,
 “called *Cutham Butts* and *Battle Downs*, for
 “buying books, and teaching *six poor Children*
 “of this parish to read, *two years*: at the end
 “of which time, *six* others to be chosen by
 “the said trustees, with the privity of the
 “churchwardens: The overplus to provide
 “fuel, and *clothe six aged or infirm poor persons*,
 “not receiving alms of the parish. Trustees,
 “Robert Gale, senior; Edmond Welch; Ed-
 “ward Gale, Gentⁿ.”

A NEAT

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A NEAT pyramidal marble monument is erected in the North Chapel, to the memory of Mrs. Prinne, lady of the gentleman before-mentioned; and also of Mrs. Hunt, their daughter.

☞ To *Charlton Kings* is a very pleasant afternoon walk, for tea-drinking parties, whom it were to be wished some of the inhabitants would make preparations in their shady gardens to accommodate. Their attention to this hint could not fail of encouragement and success in the CHELTENHAM season.

II. DOWDESWELL is about five miles eastward from CHELTENHAM, situated on a fine and fertile spot of the Cotswold country. The turnpike road from Gloucester to Oxford leads through this parish: and at *Frogmill* and *The Cross Hands* (sometimes called *Kilkenny House*), are pretty good accommodations and refreshments if necessary for parties in their rides this way. 'Tis usual for those who have not their own carriages, on coming to CHELTENHAM, to take post chaise from Frogmill thither, the Gloucester vehicles setting them

them down at this place, as the next stage to CHELTENHAM. The *Cross Hands* is a neat public house, built upon an eminence, and much admired for its beautiful southern prospect, composing a fine natural amphitheatre of wood and lawn. Close by the house, on the right hand, leading from Frogmill toward Gloucester, is a good summer bridle-road to and from CHELTENHAM, through Dowdeswell and Charlton Kings. The direction-post here is about five miles from CHELTENHAM, and this road saves two or three miles to the rider, besides furnishing him with a variety of view.

Mrs. TRACY has a handsome seat and park at *Sandiwell* in Upper Dowdeswell, within this parish. The mansion was built in the middle of the last century, and the grounds laid out by Henry Brett, Esq. who some time after sold the same to Lord Conway; from whose son, the then Earl of Hertford, it came by purchase to Thomas Tracy, Esq. late husband of the lady abovementioned*.

* For a neat view of this estate, see the cut in Sir Rob. Atkyns's History of Gloucestershire.

ON removing the old house at Sandiwell, and digging drains for the conveniency of the new one, several leaden coffins of great antiquity were found, supposed to have contained persons of considerable note. The bodies lay north and south, but it has never been discovered whose they were. This parish has certainly been the theatre of several military achievements, as appears from the camps; vestiges of which still remain visible. One of them, on the summit of Dowdeswell-Hill, called *The Castles*, is supposed to be of Roman construction.

WILLIAM ROGERS, Esq. has also a pleasant seat in Upper Dowdeswell, with a large estate adjacent; as hath Mr. Van Notten, a merchant of London, purchased by him of the family of *Rich*, who long possessed it.

DOWDESWELL Church, a rectory of about 200l. a year, is in the usual form of a cross, with a small spire in the middle. Mr. Rogers abovementioned is the patron; and the Rev. Mr. Baker the incumbent. The rides hereabout, through shady lanes and vallies, and
over

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over the gently-sloping hills, are exceedingly agreeable, and at every hundred yards exhibit some new and pleasing scene.

III. WHITTINGTON, near five miles to the south-east of CHELTENHAM, is a small parish, in the district of Cotswould, consisting more of arable than pasture ground: the village is sheltered from the north by some very lofty and well cultivated hills, whose verdant and fertile tops are adorned with plantations of firs. The river Coln, a very pretty trout stream, rises with a small head at this place, and growing more considerable as it proceeds, gives name to several villages through which it passes on its course to Fairford; (about twelve or fourteen miles from CHELTENHAM) where it mixes with the Thames.

MRS. TRACY of Sandiwell is the present Lady of the Manor of Whittington; and has right of presentation to the living, a rectory of about 200*l.* per annum. The church is small; has two chancels north and south; an aisle on the south side, and a low wooden turret in the middle.

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IN the south chancel is a very elegant monument of fine marble, exhibiting a vase, which supports an urn ; and upon the front is the subjoined inscription :

To the beloved Memory
of THOMAS TRACY, Esq. of Sandiwell,
in Gloucestershire,
Youngest son of John Tracy, Esq. of Stanway
in the said county ;
who deceased June 24th, 1770, aged 53.

This excellent Man
was distinguished in private life
By an uncommon sweetness of temper,
and benevolence of heart ;
And possessed in an eminent degree those social
and amiable virtues,
Which not only procured him the love of
his relations and intimate friends,
But the universal esteem of all
his acquaintance.

He was unanimously chosen by his country
in two succeeding parliaments, to represent

The county of Gloucester ;
Which important trust he discharged

K with

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with the strictest integrity

and

disinterested zeal.

He married *Mary*, only daughter and heiress of

Sir William Dodwell, Knight ;

And had by her one only son, *Dodwell Tracy*,

A youth, from his amiable disposition

and distinguished parts,

of the most promising hopes.

But these, alas! were blasted, when, in the

flower of his age, he was snatched

from the arms of his afflicted parents and friends,

Jan. 11, 1768, at Paris, on his return

from his travels,

In the 21st year of his age.

Mary, their lamenting Wife and Mother,

placed this mournful testimony of

her tenderest affection

To her dear Husband,

and

Her beloved Son!

IV. COBERLEY lies about four miles south of
CHELTENHAM, and affords a circumstance of
curiosity well worthy the traveller's attention.

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IN this parish, close to the high road, on the left hand leading from CHELTENHAM to Gloucester, the streams which feed the River Churn take their rise from the hollow rocky sides of the adjacent hills. The place is denominated the *Seven Wells*, and is deservedly considered as the *Head of the Thames*, “great “father of the British floods!” being the highest and most remote source of that noble river. The united waters of these pure springs are so copious, as to drive a corn-mill a little below, and shape their course through Colebourn, Rendcombe, North Cerney, and so on to Cirencester, &c. In another place * I observed, that from Crickly-Hill, which lies partly in this parish, there is a most astonishing view of the country towards Gloucester. Another very extensive prospect presents itself from the lofty summit of Pinfwell near Coberley; stretching as far as to the city of Worcester on one hand, and almost to Marlborough in Wiltshire on the other; objects, which lie at least sixty miles asunder. The name of Pinfwell (from *Pen*, the top, and *well*, a spring of water), is exactly descriptive

* Page 9.

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of its situation, on the brow of a high hill, above the rest of the village. A perennial spring gushing from hence runs down a steep descent, and joins the waters of the Churn at the Manor-house of Coberley.

V. WINCHCOMBE, a market-town, was formerly of great note. It lies about six or seven miles north from CHELTENHAM; near eleven miles S.E. from Tewksbury, and sixteen miles N.E. from Gloucester. This place was anciently called *Wincelcombe*, from a Saxon word which signifies a *corner*, and *comb*, a valley; because it lay in a nook or corner of the vale, encompassed with hills, except on the north-east quarter. The road hither from CHELTENHAM leads through Prestbury, Southam, and to the left of Postlip; and is in some parts steep, rough, and unpleasant. In its present state, which cries out for amendment, it will not do for wheel-carriages of the genteeler sort; and even the farmers' draught-horses are to be pitied, much more than the owners, for dragging through it! The avenues to the town of Winchcombe are neglected with an equal insensibility to common convenience and obvious

obvious self-interest. But the views from the heights around, of wide extent and great beauty, make ample amends to the persevering traveller on horseback. The hills are generally in the summer season covered with sheep. The air is keen, clear, and bracing to the nerves and spirits; and the majestically expanded scenes below are rich, and form a delightful variety.

IN ancient times, as we just observed, this was a place of considerable repute. Its consequence arose from an abbey founded in the 8th century by Kenulfe King of Mercia, who had a palace here; for the founding of religious houses, in the earlier ages of christianity, occasioned a great resort of people, and had an effect upon population in some places similar to that of the increase of trade afterwards in others.

OUR celebrated antiquarian, *Leland*, informs us that *Winchcombe* was once a walled town; and that a great part of it stood on the side of the river next to Sudeley castle. Hence it is plain that the *Isborne*, which waters the foot
of

of the present town, ran anciently through the middle of the old one: "Soe that of olde tyme," saith our Author, "it was a mighty large towne." In those days it was defended by a fortress or castle, which stood near the south side of the present parish church, where now are only left some humble cottages and gardens. Even in Leland's time, however, we find that it had fallen much to decay; and as it first rose to eminence by means of the monastery there established, so after the suppression of that house it ran still more rapidly to ruin. It now consists of two streets crossing each other; the one leading northward to Tewksbury and Evesham; the other,—which is by much the most considerable, and might be rendered still more so,—runs on the east towards Campden, and on the west to CHELTENHAM and Gloucester. There is no high road through it; consequently, though a market-town, and capable of much improvement, it is but little frequented, except by those who have immediate concerns with the inhabitants.

WINCHCOMBE is a borough by prescription, governed by two bailiffs, and their assistants,
not

not exceeding ten in number; and out of the twelve the bailiffs are taken by rotation, and sworn into their office annually at the court leet.

It is a remarkable circumstance, though little known, that *Tobacco*, originally brought into our kingdom by Sir John Hawkins in the year 1565, *was first planted on English ground in this parish*; and yielded a considerable produce and profit to the inhabitants, till they were restrained from the cultivation of it by an act of parliament, passed in the 12th year of Charles II.

THE church of Winchcombe merits a stranger's notice. It is a large noble edifice, of the cathedral form, with a handsome aisle on each side covered with lead; and has a very spacious chancel, and a fine lofty tower at the west end. The pulpit is made out of a single solid stone, well carved; and both the church and tower are adorned with battlements and pinnacles, in the best style of our pious and venerable ancestors. All round this building are placed a number of strangely grotesque figures in stone, some droll, and others monstrous to behold.

behold. They are very similar to those in Oxford, which must have struck the particular attention of every one who has visited Magdalen College; and which, while some assert that they are merely the vagaries of the mason, are said by others, with much more probability, to be emblematical of the various virtues and vices of human nature, and to contain a complete though chimerical system of academic and religious discipline *.

THE right honourable Thomas Charles Lord Viscount Tracy is the patron of Winchcombe, and the present incumbent is the Rev. Mr. Roberts.

IN the reign of Henry VI. William de Winchcombe the then abbot, designed to erect a parish church at the end of the Abbey, now demolished; and he finished the east part in his life time. The parishioners began the body of the building, towards which they had collected

* See the *Oxford Guide*, under "Magdalen College;" and particularly the remarks on this head from Reeks's *Oedipus Magdalenensis*, which, however well or ill-grounded, are learned and ingenious.

two hundred pounds ; but that not being sufficient,

Ralph Boteler, Lord Sudley, finished the work ; after which it was dedicated to St. Peter,—and this is the parish church.

HERE are two annual fairs held on the 6th of May, and 28th of July. The market is on Saturday ; and as the town is seated in a rich vale, the fairs are usually well supplied with cattle and draught-horses ; but the market is very inconsiderable.

About two miles north-east from Winchcombe are the venerable remains of *Hayles Abbey*, erected in the year 1246, by Richard Earl of Cornwall, King of the Romans, and brother to King Henry III. in consequence of a vow which he had made at sea in an hour of imminent danger. To this place he brought twenty monks of the Cistercian order from Beaulieu in Hampshire. It was a mitred abbey ; and Stevens in his *Monasticon*, from a list of abbots summoned to parliament, informs us that the abbots of this house, and of Hales Owen in Shropshire were usually summoned together. The Abbot's house was a large hand-

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some building, but is now so fallen to decay as to be habitable for a few persons only. The arms of the founder were originally fixed in the hall window, and around them inscribed, in old characters, "RICHARDUS PLANTAGENET, SEMPER AUGUSTUS, FUNDATOR NOSTER." These, with other painted glass of the windows of this house, have been lately removed to the hall windows at Toddington, the seat of Lord Viscount Tracy; together with a noble old Chimney-piece from hence, placed in the great hall there. What now remains of the abbey is situated in a rich pasture ground of five or six acres. The north-east side of the cloister, in length about 35 yards, is tolerably entire. The outer walls of the other three sides of the cloister are in part standing; and there are three or four doors leading out of the north-east side to the place where the church stood, of which nothing now remains but part of the foundation. A large ancient building stands near the site of the abbey-house: it was formerly used for the reception of pilgrims and devout persons visiting the monastery; and, till very lately, has been kept open as an inn ever since the reformation. The inhabitants assert

assert that there is a subterraneous passage from this place to Coscombe, which was called "the Abbot's Lodging." One Freeman, of Didbrook in this neighbourhood, declared to an old man at the abbey-house, that he went far into it, till he came to a pair of iron gates which stopped his progress; that the top is handsomely arched over with stone, and in the walls are niches and seats all along: the mouth or opening he said was in the orchard near the house. Richard Earl of Cornwall was buried in Hayles Church-yard, A. D. 1272. His lady in 1261; and Edmond their son, Earl of Cornwall, anno 1300. His funeral was performed with great pomp, King Edward the First, and a great number of the nobility attending the solemnity; so that this church contained the ashes of a king, a queen, and their son.

VI. SUDLEY, or "The South Place," is so called from its situation with respect to Winchcombe, which lies a little northward of it. This most pleasant parish forms a groupe of delightful scenery! It consists of rich meadow- and pasture grounds, intermixed with wood-

lands; and occupies the north side of that vast chain of hills, which running through the county, divides the deep vale from the high Cotswoulds of Gloucestershire. There are but about five families in the whole parish; yet I flatter myself,—at least I hope,—that the reader will forgive my fondness for the spot, if I think it deserves a peculiar mention.

Full many a gem, of purest ray serene,
The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear;
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air! GRAY,


SUDLEY, generally pronounced *Sudeley*, has been the place of residence of great persons from very early ages: these, as proprietors of the noble scene, took successively the name of *De Sudley*, after the manner of ancient times.

IN this spot are the beautiful remains of an ancient CASTLE, built, as it is supposed, about the time of King Henry VI. who began his reign in 1422. Ralph, Lord Sudley, had served as High-Admiral of the British fleet, and with the spoils he had gained in the wars with France, erected this *Castle* upon the site of an
old

old one built in King Stephen's reign. One part of the new structure was called *Portmere's Tower*, after the name of the French Admiral, who, as tradition informs us, was taken prisoner by Lord Sudley; to whom the King gave Portmere's ransom, which was supposed to have been nearly sufficient for building the whole castle.

Thus happily nested as in a rock, the Baron might well be supposed to enjoy a quiet shelter; but, so fluctuating it seems was the then state of public affairs, that the subject was safe neither in his person nor his property, and the favourite of one reign was generally obnoxious to the succeeding. Ralph, Lord Sudley, was suspected of having a strong attachment to the Lancastrian family; and King Edward IV. attaining the crown, caused him to be apprehended at his castle, from whence he was carried to London. On coming to the top of Sudley-Hill, and like a second Orpheus looking back, he exclaimed, "O Sudley Castle! thou art the traitor, not I;" apprehending the King's design of seizing this Naboth's Vineyard, although he had committed no act that could legally subject his estate to confiscation. Accordingly
it

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it soon turned out: he found himself obliged to sell it to the King; and constables to secure it were afterwards appointed by the crown. 

SIR JOHN BRUGES, or Brydges, was constituted constable of Sudley Castle, 29 Henry VIII. and had a new grant of office in the 34th year of the same reign, in which Edmund, his son and heir, then one of the Esquires of the King's body, was joined in trust with them. He afterwards obtained a grant in fee both of the manor and castle. In 1554, Queen Mary created him a peer of Great Britain, by the title of *Baron Chandos of Sudley*; and the castle and manor belonging to it continued in his family for many years.

At the breaking out of the civil war in the reign of Charles I. this castle was garrisoned with about sixty men of the King's party, under the command of Captain Brydges. In the evening of the 1st of January, 1642, Col. Massie, at the head of three hundred musketeers, with two *sakers*, or pieces of artillery, from Gloucester, and assisted by eighty horse and four companies of
of

of dragoons from Cirencester, drew up before Sudley Castle. They discharged several shot with some execution: and the next morning preparations were made for a general assault; when a party of horse and dragoons possessing themselves of a garden close to the castle, set fire to some hay and straw, under the smoak of which the ordnance was brought close up undiscovered. The garrison then beat a parley, and surrendered, on condition to return to their own houses, and never to serve against the parliament. Soon after, Cirencester being taken by Prince Rupert, the Castle again fell into the King's hands, and for a long time greatly interrupted the intercourse between the garrisons placed by parliament at Gloucester and London, through Warwick, which at that period was the only way of communication; so that even a single scout could not pass without extreme hazard: but in the year 1644, the King's army having retreated from Oxford before Sir William Waller, the latter ordered Massie, governor of Gloucester, to meet him before *Sudley Castle*. Massie came up first, and fell in with a party of the garrison, who retreated within the walls after a slight skirmishing;

mishing; and Sir William Waller arriving within a few hours, summoned Sir William Morton, the governor of the castle, who valiantly refused to surrender. At this crisis an accidental shot taking off the head of the chief gunner in the castle*, is thought to have intimidated the common soldiery; and though the governor was an active man in the King's service, and had great reputation for his valour and general understanding, he gave up the castle and himself to the parliament, without even providing for the indemnity of his person. In this strenuous conflict nine captains and twenty-two subaltern officers were made prisoners of war, and a quantity of cloth was found there by the victors, to the value of four thousand pounds.

At that time it is supposed the castle was entire: but a great part of it has been since shamefully demolished; and, too probably, much more of its venerable walls would have shared the same rude fate, but for the more liberal spirit of Mr. Lucas its present possessor, in whose

* Marks of the cannon-shot through the walls are still visible, both on the castle, and ruins of the chapel adjacent.

hands it is likely to preserve all that time shall spare of its former honours. The present remains shew it to have been a very beautiful building; and truly they do honour to its noble founder. According to Leland, the windows of the hall in his time had beryls in them, instead of glafs *.

THE fine ruins of Sudley Castle, in their present state, are well delineated in an elegant engraving by Messrs. N. and S. Buck, executed in 1738, and inserted in Rudder's new history Gloucester, p. 717.

THERE is nothing remaining of the church, except the shell, or outward walls, which the above-named ingenious artists have annexed to their plate; from which it appears to have been a very elegant Gothic building, in a superior taste, surrounded with battlements and pinnacles. The writer of this pamphlet beheld

* The *beryl* is a kind of precious stone, of a deeper and brighter red, and more transparent than the common cornelian, though something similar: Very possibly, however, Leland might be mistaken, as glafs is frequently seen painted or stained of the same colour as the beryl.

them with a peculiar pleasure; and even the fine fruit trees, inclosed, and loaded, within its walls, struck him with some degree of pity for its great decline. The country all round this sweet spot will amply repay the trouble of any visitor.

I MUST not omit, for the gratification of the curious reader, that QUEEN CATHARINE PARR, daughter of Sir WILLIAM PARR, Knight; widow of Henry the VIII. his *sixth*, and *last wife*; afterwards better married to Thomas Seymour, Baron of Sudley, and Lord High Admiral of England, died here in childbed, September, 5, A. D. 1548; and was buried with much funeral pomp in the chapel of Sudley Castle. The following inscription for the epitaph of this celebrated personage was composed by Dr. Parkhurst, one of her Ladyship's chaplains.

“ INCOMPA-

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“ INCOMPARABILIS Fœminæ CATHARINÆ,
nuper Angliæ, Franciæ et Hiberniæ Reginæ,
Dominæ meæ clementissimæ,

EPITAPHIUM, 1548.

Hoc Regina novo dormit CATHARINA sepulchro,

Sexus fœminei flos, honor atque decus!

Hæc fuit HENRICO Conjux fidissima Regi,

Quem postquam è vivis Parca tulisset atrox,

Thomæ Seymero (cui tu, Neptune, tridentem

Porrigis) eximio nupserat illa Viro.

Huic peperit natam: A partu cum septimus orbem

Sol illustrasset, Mors truculenta necat.

Defunctam madidis *Famuli* deflemus ocellis,

Humescat tristis *terra Britannica* genas.

Nos infelices mœror consumit acerbus;

Inter cœlestes gaudet at *Illa* Choras,

ENGLISHED.

The EPITAPH of the incomparable Lady CATHARINE, late Queen of England, France, and Ireland, my most indulgent Mistress, 1548.

In this new tomb the royal CATHARINE lies,

Flower of her sex, renowned, great and wise!

A wife, by every nuptial virtue known,

And faithful partner once of HENRY's throne.

To *Seymour* next her plighted hand she yields,

Seymour, who Neptune's trident justly weilds:

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From him a beauteous daughter blest'd her arms,
 An infant copy of her parent's charms:
 When now seven days this tender flower had bloom'd,
 Heaven, kind in all, the mother's soul resum'd.
 Great CATHARINE's merit in our grief appears,
 While fair *Britannia* dews her cheeks with tears.
 Our loyal breasts with rising sighs are torne;
 With Saints She triumphs,—we with mortals mourn!

THERE is only a small aisle of the ancient building now occupied, which is still called the Chapel, and where divine service is performed once a fortnight.

VI. POSTLIP is on the road to Winchcombe, and a hamlet of that parish. It is part of the estate of the Earl of Coventry, and has been in his family for many years. His Lordship has a large decent house here, well situated on the side of a fair rising ground. The chapel is lately converted to the purposes of manufactory, &c. and the whole premises are now occupied by Mr. Durham, one of the most considerable paper makers in the kingdom.

VII. PRESTBURY is about two miles north of CHELTENHAM, and in the hundred of the same.

It

It lies partly in the vale; and the circumjacent country consists of a rich pasture soil, with a small proportion of tillage, though the corn produced here is very good. Another part of the parish stretches up the western side of that majestic range of hills, which separates the vale from the Cotswould country. The river Swillate, rising out of Prestbury-Hill, passes by Swindon, Elmstone and Tredington, and empties its stream into the Upper Avon, a little below Tewksbury. Here are also several other good springs issuing from the uplands. Many of the company at CHELTENHAM resort hither to tea-drinking, or as a pleasant evening walk; for which, like *Charlton*, it is very well adapted, and the good people are decent and obliging.

IN Henry III's time, *Prestbury* was a market-town: how long it continued such is uncertain. Perhaps its vicinity to CHELTENHAM and Winchcombe might render the charter ineffectual or needless; and their loss of the patronage of the Bishop of Hereford, from whom the manor was taken at the reformation, soon reduced the town to the condition of a country

try village, in which it hath ever since continued.

This place has had some share in ancient military transactions, as its name *Prestbury*, or "the Priest's Camp," implies; not that the encampment here made was by religious men; but the manor in which it lay took its present appellation from becoming the property of the church of Hereford. The remains of the camp are still visible in some places, but whether of Saxon construction or Roman is uncertain *. To the east of Prestbury is an ancient feat named *Hewlets*, which lies partly in this, and partly in CHELTENHAM parish. It forms a very agreeable object at a distance, and commands an extensive prospect over the vale towards the river Severn. The proprietor of this spot is Thomas Baghott, Esq. a bachelor, whose

* In the last century, during the great civil war, Col. Massie, governor of Gloucester, placed a garrison of 150 men in a strong house at this village, to protect the market of that city from depredations. It also served to keep up a communication between the garrisons of the parliament at Gloucester and Warwick, and to check those of the king in Sudley Castle.

family

family it is said have resided in the village upwards of four hundred years.

N. B. THE road to Prestbury is a very great reproach to those, whose charge and duty it is to keep it in far better repair! At present it is really almost impassable, even for the peasants.

VIII. SOUTHAM is a hamlet, or large tithing of the parish of Bishop's-Cleeve. Here Thomas Baghott Delabere, Esq. a bachelor, related to the gentleman last mentioned, has an ancient seat and fine estate. The house stands very pleasantly in the Summer season, though not conspicuous but on a near approach; being, as Milton phrases it, "bosom'd high in tufted trees." It is said to be one of the greatest curiosities in the county of Gloucester; a low building, but spacious, in the style of Henry IV. or about that period. The hall floor is paved with painted bricks, brought from Hayles Abbey, which once stood in this neighbourhood, and soon after the dissolution of that venerable mansion. There are many curious devices upon them of different kinds, containing the
names

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names and rebuses of the names of the abbots, *Ford* and *Melton*. The bricks are in exceedingly good preservation, and deserve to be so kept, as valuable remains of the abbey to which they belonged. The hall is likewise decorated with great numbers of escutcheons and arms, amongst which especially are those of Richard Duke of Cornwall, as King of the Romans, and founder of Hayles Abbey ; of the Delaberes, and of other ancient families. There are also in this house many paintings of eminent persons who flourished in former times ; particularly a whole length figure of Edward the VIth. done upon oak, which is much admired ; some of the other pieces are injured by time. Mr. Delabere abovementioned is the present lord of the manor of Southam, whose ancestors came into England with King William the Conqueror ; and may a family so respectable be long continued to their country.

IX. *HAYMES* is of itself a manor, lying under *Winchcombe-Hill*, in the tithing of *Southam*. Sir Will. Strachan, Bart. of Nova Scotia, a few years since built a very handsome seat here,

upon

tipon an eminence, commanding a delightful prospect over the vale of Evesham, terminated by Malvern and Abberley Hills in the county of Worcester. This house and the adjacent village make a good object to the left, on the road to Winchcombe.

X. BISHOP'S-CLEEVE is about four miles to the north of CHELTENHAM, and lies near the Tewksbury Road. Its situation on the side of the hill very probably gave occasion to its name of *Cleeve* or *Cliff*, which in the Anglo-Saxon language signifies a high rock, or steep ascent.

MANY camps, intrenchments and fortifications have been traced out in various parts of the Cotswould country, but no where more than on the verge of those hills; situations, which seem to have been chosen upon two accounts; as being less liable to surprize or attack, and commanding a large extent of country below, where the opposite party could scarce stir without being observed. On the edge of Cleeve-Hill, or as it is commonly called *Cleeve-Cloud*, is a large double intrenchment called "The
N Camps,"

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Camps," extending three hundred and fifty yards along the summit of the rock, in the form of a crescent, and inaccessible on every side but the front. The name of *Cleeve-Cloud* seems to have been given to this edge of the hill on account of its bold and lofty appearance, often hazy when viewed from the vale below; and thus answering our poet's description of

Mountains, on whose barren breast
The labouring clouds do often rest.

FROM the foot of *Cleeve-Cloud*, to the top of the eminence where the camp is described, although little more than half a measured mile, there is an ascent of 630 feet perpendicular.

THE inhabitants of this part of the country have been agreeably amused with the expectation of coal being to be found in Long Wood, within the parish of Bishop's-Cleeve: the proprietor is now searching for that useful fossil; and both for his own sake, and the general good of the neighbourhood, he justly merits the wish of speedy success.

XI. LECHAMPTON lies about three miles distant from CHELTENHAM on the south; and probably

bably took its name from the vast rock on the brow of the hill, visible from the country round; *Lech* in the British language signifying *stone*; of which great quantities are dug out of the bare hollow spot called "Lechampton Quars." Near half the parish consists of dairy farms, extending towards the vale; the other part stretches eastward, over a stupendous ridge of hills, often visited by company on horseback, and sometimes in carriages, to enjoy the Sublime and Beautiful of rural excursion. From hence is a large and very interesting prospect over the vale, and the river Severn, above and below the city of Gloucester.

ON the declivity of this hill, fronting the town of CHELTENHAM, is a fair-looking, spacious mansion, now inhabited by Mr. Henry Norwood, a bachelor, lord of the manor, patron of the living; a gentleman of good fortune, and descended from the very ancient and honourable family of the Norwoods of Kent. An ancestor of this gentleman, not many years since, made great and valuable alterations in the form of the building: the grounds and gardens have heretofore been a

charming spot, and indulgent nature hath shaped the scenery around them most delightfully; but the writer experienced a peculiar disappointment, to find the premises so wonderfully neglected, and running with uninterrupted haste into weeds and disorder.

*Isa Pales agros, atque ipse reliquit Apollo:
Infelix lolium, et steriles dominantur avenæ:
Pro molli viola, pro purpureo narcisso,
Carduus et spinis surgit paliurus acutis.*

Which, for the benefit of the English reader, is thus translated by an able hand.

“ I pass’d by his garden, and saw the wild brier,
The thorn and the thistle grow broader and higher.”

A VIEW of the ancient building and scite at Lechampton, then well laid out, is given on copper-plate in Sir Robert Atkyns’s ancient and present state of Gloucestershire, p. 276. The church here has a handsome spire, and the Rev. Mr. Draper is the present incumbent.

XII. SWINDON is about a mile north-west of CHELTENHAM, and lies in the vale, on the banks of the little river Swiliate. The village
is

is small, but the neighbourhood around it is very picturesque, and the ride agreeable.

It would have been easy to enlarge the list of the pleasurable excursions for many miles round, and to take in Gloucester, Tewksbury, the Malvern Hills, Worcester, &c; but these do not so properly come in under the head of airings. Suffice it to observe, of those above mentioend, and others within distance, that the prospects they afford are so variegated, as to present something new to the spectator every time he visits them.

SECTION

SECTION VIII.

IMPROVEMENTS AND ACCOMMODATIONS.

THE old Playhouse, which has been lately fitted up and beautified, is neat, but not sufficiently spacious to seat a large audience, so that on particular nights many are obliged to forego the amusement of the theatre. Plays are here acted thrice a week, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday during the season, by a company of comedians chiefly from Worcester; who, without aiming at elegance of scenery and decorations, exert their best endeavours to deserve approbation, and accordingly meet with encouragement. The subscription is a guinea for eighteen nights, or two shillings the pit, and one shilling gallery, each evening. It has been proposed to form a society of gentlemen, and erect a new and commodious theatre by subscription; each subscriber to receive a proportionable share of the neat rent, according to his deposit.

MORTIMER

THE

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THE Avenues from the town to the Long Room are lighted on ball nights. The Street also has been some time furnished with *lamps*; though often neglected by those, whose own interests, and a polite regard to visitors at the Spa, will it is hoped induce them to remedy the defect.

THE Pavement of the street is undergoing a thorough repair, on a neat construction; and is carried on with spirit, at a considerable expence to the parishioners.

THE *Subscriptions* to the Long Room are,

For each Gentleman or Lady	-	0	5	0	
To the Music, for the season	-	0	10	6	
To ditto, on each ball night, by the					
Gentlemen who dance only	-	0	2	6	
For the Newspapers	-	-	0	2	6

THE public breakfasting is at the Long Room every Monday morning at ten o'clock, during the season; each person pays one shilling. The balls begin at eight in the evening, and country dances close them at eleven: they are constantly kept from Midsummer to Michaelmas.

EACH

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EACH person who drinks tea, or a dish of chocolate, pays sixpence;—ladies who dance excepted, the gentlemen their partners paying for them.

THE hire of a sedan-chair to the rooms, well, playhouse, or on a visiting party to any house in the town, is sixpence; and the same on return.

THE LONDON POST TO CHELTENHAM,

Goes out

Monday evening, at 10. }
Wednesday noon, at 12. }
Saturday evening, at 10. }

Comes in

Monday, }
Thursday, } morning.
Saturday, }

THE CROSS-POST TO AND FROM GLOUCESTER,

Goes out

Sunday afternoon, at 4 }
Wednesday } night. }
Friday }

Comes in

Monday, }
Thursday, } Afternoon.
Saturday, }

A STAGE COACH, holding six, and a diligence carrying three passengers, set out every evening at six o'clock, Sunday excepted: The coach
goes

goes from the Bolt and Tun, Fleet-Street, London, and the diligence from the Swan with two Necks in Lad-lane, and proceed to Gloucester. The coach fare is a guinea, and that of the diligence one pound four shillings: they stop to change horses at Frogmill, seven miles from CHELTENHAM; and from thence passengers are readily accommodated with good post chaises to CHELTENHAM at a small expence.

A STAGE-WAGGON goes to and from CHELTENHAM and London once a week. Sets off on Friday morning at eleven from Snow-Hill, London, and reaches CHELTENHAM Tuesday evening about eight. Also sets out from hence on Monday morning at six o'clock, and gets to London about three on Thursday afternoon.

WE before noticed the proposals and plan for building some *new Lodging Houses* *, which, as being equally practicable and necessary, we doubt not may be soon effected; and if the treaty here talked of, with a noble lord, for a house to be erected as his residence near the

* See page 29.

well takes place, other improvements of a similar kind can then need neither sanction nor motive.

THE idea of a *Navigable Canal* to be cut from this town to the river Severn, between Gloucester and Tewksbury, is a business of much wider extent. It has been frequently the topic of discourse in this part of the country; and a subscription is formed, at a guinea each person, for taking the proper levels, and delineating a plan of the course of that navigation, to be handsomely engraved on copper-plate for the subscribers, and others who may be inclined to adopt the plan. Whether it may take effect or not, in this improving age, is very uncertain: should it succeed, the work must undoubtedly prove an expensive one; against which consideration, however, the certainty of many and great public advantages from water-freight may be fairly opposed. At present, the object is merely the child of speculation and possibility; and the returns of profit have not yet been sufficiently elucidated to shew the expediency of the execution.

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THE following lines, said to have been the production of a native of the place, seem naturally to fall in here, as a suitable close to the CHELTENHAM GUIDE.

THE
P R A I S E S
OF
CHELTENHAM WELL.

BENEATH kind CERES' rising hills,
Behold the vale so sweet,

Which FLORA with her beauties fills,

Where HEALTH and PLEASURE meet!

Where noble lords and knights repair,

And ladies of renown,

To taste the soft salubrious air

That breathes round CHELT'NHAM town.

While music's power enchants the glades,

And charms each listening ear,

Amidst th' adjacent stately shades

What brilliant crowds appear!

O !

Where

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Where oft from stubborn ails they're freed,

As thousands joyful tell :

Then say, what *Spa* can e'er exceed

Fair CHELT'NHAM's sacred Well?

When learned doctors have in vain

Exerted all their skill,

To soothe their patient in his pain,

Or cure each languid ill ;

Though of their means they tried the chief,

Yet all have fruitless fell ;

Till recommended for relief

To lovely CHELT'NHAM's WELL.

What matchless pleasures here are found !

Where the aspiring trees

Diffuse a cool refreshment round,

Inviting every breeze :

The crystal, purling streamlet nigh

Exulting seems to flow ;

O then, what joys with these can vie,

Or blessings fought below !

But

But see ! another blest retreat,
 A consecrated shade ;
 Where neither rain, nor dog-star heat,
 Can touch the swain or maid !
 The friendly shade fair limes compose,
 Whose branches well unite :
 And monarchs sure might envy those,
 Who share the calm delight.

Let some the joys of LONDON's town,
 And courtly pomps admire ;
 Or wreath at BATH soft pleasure's crown,
 If such ambition fire :
 Indulge *me*, Heavens ! I ask no more,
 On this dear spot to dwell ;
 And taste of Health th' untainted store,
 That flows round CHELT'NHAM WELL !

APPENDIX.

THE CHELSEA MANSION GUIDE

1. The house was built in 1720
2. It was the first of its kind
3. The house was built in 1720
4. It was the first of its kind
5. The house was built in 1720
6. It was the first of its kind
7. The house was built in 1720
8. It was the first of its kind
9. The house was built in 1720
10. It was the first of its kind

APPENDIX

A P P E N D I X.

THE following letters lately came to hand, and appear to have been inserted in the Morning Post of the sixth and sixteenth of September, 1780, by some, who thought differently on the subject. Had they come in time, they might more properly have been noticed under the IVth Section, page 30.

L E T T E R, I.

MR. EDITOR,

I AM just returned from a little tour through the west of England. Amongst the number of places I visited, CHELTENHAM in Gloucestershire detained me some days, being a town now growing into repute, from the great increase of company this year, who go to drink the mineral spa water. I shall trouble

trouble you with a laconic sketch of the town and its inhabitants, which may perhaps be of service to those who frequent it in future. The town of CHELTENHAM, from its situation (which is in a vale, surrounded on every side with high rugged hills, covered with deep sands) would, in all probability, have remained unnoticed to the end of time, had not the spa attracted the attention of the public. This seems to be the general opinion of the inhabitants, if we may judge from the little pains they have taken to decorate or improve themselves or habitations. They likewise seem displeased that chance should ever have brought them to public notice, by their constant opposition to every improvement, for the convenience and accommodation of those who visit them. This narrow-minded mode of thinking, we may naturally conclude, leads them on to insolence and imposition. Thus emerging as they are from a state of obscurity, did they possess the understanding of rational creatures, we might expect to see attention, assiduity, and care, to deserve the favours of the public: but this seems to be distant from their ideas; and those whose health necessarily obliges them
to

to go there, must think themselves highly indebted to the public spirit of Mr. M——r, of London, for the great exertion of his fortune and abilities, to render the place in the least sufferable: I am, &c.

T. G.

Saturday night,

Sept. 2. 1780;

LETTER II.

MR. EDITOR,

HAVING been out of town for some time; I did not immediately get a sight of the letter signed T. G. inserted in your Paper of Wednesday the sixth instant.

THOUGH neither a native nor an inhabitant of CHELTENHAM in Gloucestershire, yet the common interests of truth, and a grateful sense of benefits derived from the water there, oblige me to declare, that T. G.'s assertions are not well founded; and I fear he was, like some

P

other

other modern travellers, neither in good plight of body or temper during his "few days" continuance at the Spa. I could have pardoned the crudity of his remarks, had they been more imbued with the milk of human kindness.

As it is, we must consider the indulgence due to every valetudinarian, and wish him a better constitution. My own taffeta waistcoat was not so rumpled, after a much longer stay there this summer; nor did I find that abundance of occasion of which T. G. complains.

THE Road to CHELTENHAM of late years has been much improved, is daily improving, and from the peculiar felicity of its situation, is capable of doing honour to the hand of embellishment. The pavement of the town is now, while I write, undergoing a considerable alteration, at much expence to the parishioners. The lodging-houses throughout the place are fitted up with all the decency which a reasonable visitor would require, at a reasonable price; and as some proof that T. G. can be *singularly* acute, he is, I am persuaded, the only learned and *laconic* writer who hath devoted

his genius to the purpose of bespattering a delightfully-seated town, which he is pleased to describe as but now growing into repute. But, possibly, he may be one of those authors, whom Dr. Johnson dryly opines to have *written* more than they have *read*; for upon a very slight inquiry, T. G. might have known that *other learned* writers have mentioned CHELTENHAM with celebrity many years since: and it is striking to remark, that the number of faces well known amidst its various votaries, who from one season to another constantly recur to the well, is a full testimony of their approbation of the place, its water, its lodgings, and its inhabitants.

I HOPE Mr. T. G. will not deem it a presumption, should I suggest to a person of his great acumen, how slowly, for the most part, improvement moves in *inland towns*, till the example and public spirit of fortunes more ample, and minds better informed, have aroused them to imitation. It is different in the busy haunts of a metropolis or a sea-port town. Brightelmstone, for instance, a few years since

was hardly known, but for its nets and good fish. Of late it improves daily, and I heartily wish it to improve, because I find that its inhabitants, encouraged by the late great resort of company, seem disposed to expend what they acquire in erecting new buildings, or in making the old ones convenient.——This I grant is exemplary; and I know it has well succeeded; but others also have judiciously acted a similar part, so far as they deemed it necessary, or suitable to their finances.

IF the people of CHELTENHAM had made *no* improvements at all, to accommodate their numerous noble and other guests, common sense would readily join Mr. T. G. to condemn them. But this, Sir, is not the case; and from what has been already done, we may fairly presage that *much more will be done*.——Self-interest, Mr. Editor, we both know is a very ruling principle; and men of discernment readily feel its benign influence, even at a distant approach. Few seasons, if any, since the discovery of the Spa, have been so highly honoured and crowded as the present: the objects of advantage,

vantage, therefore, are become more prominent and palpable to every resident in CHELTENHAM.

—Sunt oculis subjecta fidelibus, et quæ

Ipse sibi tradit spectator:

And if T. G.'s eyes or ears had been as open as his pen is rapid, they might have enabled him to inform you, Sir, as I do, with equal truth, respect and pleasure, that several modes of accommodation and real improvement, besides the beforementioned, are projecting, and some of them in forwardness.

ONE word more, if you have room,—and I have done.

Mr. T. G. is happy in *levelling* objects at full length: but, as to *commend* is not a willing business with every *laconic* writer, he has ingeniously gutted the name of the truly-worthy and spirited Mr. MILLER, who conducts the Well and Rooms; and whose character, from general report, is amiably such, that whilst I am sure he will not seek the flattery of applause for himself, he wishes not to be extolled
or

or contrasted at the expence of his fellow-inhabitants; with whom it may be necessary to inform Mr. T. G. that this gentleman has ever lived upon the most friendly and harmonious terms.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

SUUM CUIQUE.

Teddington, Sept. 12.

1780.

THE END.

